

Pay Her Damages

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Day After Day and Week After Week and Month After Month It Was Shown That
Druggist Skinner Sold the Unfortunate Boy Ever-Increasing Doses of Heroin. The
Druggist Watched the Youth Sink Lower and Lower, Until the Boy Lost His
Employment, His Clothes Became Shabby and His Face Took on the
Haggard Look of the Hopeless Drug Fiend. Skinner Warned the Boy
Not to Tell Where He Was Getting the Poison. The Boy Finally
Became a Thief, and with the Proceeds of His Stealings
the Druggist Kept on Selling Him the Cursed Drug



Attorney James J. Barry, of Schene-
tady, Whose Able Prosecution of
Druggist Skinner Resulted
in His Conviction.

The Alarming Spread of the Drug Habit in the United States

THE United States, through the Bureau of Chem-
istry of the Department of Agriculture, re-
cently made a thorough investigation of the
prevalence of the drug habit in this country, bring-
ing to light some astounding figures. It was
claimed, after due inquiry, that perhaps one million
habitual users of drugs were living in the United
States, but that on account of the natural secrecy
surrounding such habits it was possible that there
are four million of these sufferers from addiction to
drugs which will finally utterly destroy the brain of
the users if not stopped.

Dr. T. D. Crothers, president of the Medico-Legal
Society, and superintendent of the Walnut Lodge Hos-
pital of Hartford, Conn., claims that the minimum
number of habitual drug users is 500,000, though this
may be multiplied many times because in a large
number of cases, especially among the well-to-do, the
fact of addiction to drugs is not made plain until death.
During the first eight months of the enforcement of
the "Boylan" law against drugs in New York there
were 700 convictions in New York City alone. This
is no indication whatever of the extent of use, for many
of those convicted were so convicted for selling drugs,
and they probably sold these soul-destroying drugs to
many thousands.

The most horrible feature of the spread of the drug
habit, according to the workers in prisons, is that boys
between the ages of sixteen and twenty are the most
frequent victims, and that the number of these is
increasing almost daily, notwithstanding all efforts of
enforcing the law.

In prohibition States it has been claimed that the
increase in the use of habit-forming drugs is enormous,
though no precise statistics are as yet available, but
penologists and physicians explain this upon the ground

that those deprived of the stimulation of drink are easy
victims to any other stimulant.

The proof of the widespread prevalence of the drug
habit lies in the very numerous crowded sanitariums
for the treatment of the habit. The Department of
Agriculture has a list of more than a hundred of pri-
vate institutions alone, all crowded.

Dr. Crothers, who is acknowledged to be one of the
experts on the effect of these drugs has explained that
all of them affect the brain directly, and in the
end fatally, unless the patients are properly treated
and cured. He claims that in the use of cocaine, for
instance, the presumption of brain failure and ir-
responsibility should be unquestioned. As soon as it is
known that a person uses any of the drugs habitually
we may be certain that all kinds and degrees of intel-
lectual disorder and states of mental confusion will
be found. At first it may be possible to conceal the
ravages being made upon the mind, but a careful
examination soon reveals the secret.

He gives a case of a forger who was a confirmed
cocaine taker, who showed unusual ability in directing
his case in court, but who as soon as the cocaine was
denied him had confused notions, delirium, finally
dementia. Paralysis appears upon the removal or
denial of this drug in advanced cases, making the
recognition of it absolute.

Dr. Crothers lays down the general law that he
claims should be recognized in all cases, that any
form of drug addiction exposes the habitue to sus-
picion of mental unsoundness. The doctor has to in-
quire when a case is presented to him in how far the
mental destruction has progressed. There is no
greater curse to the victim, and often to the com-
munity, for when under the influence of the drug the
victim may commit almost any crazy crime, even
murder itself.



This Is Leo Rooney, Now Convict "M-26395." Since His Com-
mitment to the Elmira Reformatory Has Been Tem-
porarily Broken of His Drug Habit and Has
Improved Rapidly, Physically and Morally.

for a new trial, but was denied by Justice Kellogg.
The verdict was carried to the Appellate Division by
the counsel for druggist Skinner. The opinion of the
five judges of the Appellate Division—written by Jus-
tice Wesley O. Howard, of Troy—unanimously sus-
tained the verdict of the Court. The case now rests
before the Court of Appeals, and it is said that so far
the Skinner concern has expended \$2,500 in defense.
"During the time in which these defendants were

supplying this drug to the young man, he became a
vagabond, an idler, a drug fiend and a criminal; un-
dutiful to his mother, worthless to himself and dan-
gerous to the community," declared the judges of the
Appellate Division. "The jury was right in concluding
that all this was the result of the illicit traffic carried
on by these defendants and that they should be pun-
ished for their reckless disregard of the rights and
welfare of this boy and his mother."

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